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December 5, 2008

Via Facsimile (11 pages)
571-270-2395

Our Ref: 0074/054001

Mr. Joshua Bullock
Group Art Unit 2162
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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U.S. National Phase Patent Application No. 10/533,819
of PCT/JP2004/010283
Takuji MAEDA et al.
FILE MANAGEMENT METHOD AND INFORMATION
PROCESSING DEVICE
Panasonic Corporation

Dear Examiner Bullock:

Enclosed please find our proposed claims for the requested interview in this application. We are interested in discussing these proposed claim amendments to overcome the rejection based on Moore et al.

We are also interested in understanding your interpretation of Moore et al. related to the claim language including that related to setting flags for files that have the same name that come from multiple sources as this does not seem to be described in Moore et al.

Our claim amendments include the features: "a file system controller which refers to said slot information and said open information, and which sets said flags and accesses a file in a logical information recording region of said information recording media based on said priority order when files having the same name exist in said plurality of information media".

Please refer to our proposed claim amendments for the other proposed changes.

Mr. Joshua Bullock
Group Art Unit 2162
December 5, 2008
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Please contact me for scheduling the interview.

With best regards,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randolph A. Smith

RAS:kn
Enclosure (proposed claims for interview)
Bullock120508

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS FOR INTERVIEW

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/533,819

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An information processing device to which a plurality of information recording media can be simultaneously attached when said plurality of information recording media exist in which data stored in an information recording region is managed as a file by means of an individual file system, comprising:

a plurality of slots which are provided in a body of said information processing device to attach said respective information recording media;

a system memory which retains file system control information for recognizing individual file systems constructed in said plurality of information recording media and unifying and controlling the individual file systems into a single virtual file system [[:]] , a file system controller ~~which refers to~~ information including:

(1) slot information including priority order retained in said file system control information showing a priority for use of a plurality of information recording media and system information showing a file system in said information recording media, and

(2) open information showing information on opened files as well as flags for files having the same name;
a file system controller which refers to said slot information and said open information, and which sets said flags and accesses a file in a logical information recording region of said information recording media based on said priority order when files having the same name exist in said plurality of information media; and
an access controller which accesses a slot and an address designated by said file system controller, and acquires data of a file.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said file system controller once initializes said slot information and open information of file system control information in said system memory where a state is initially set for said application program in a manner that said information recording media are not attached and that all of the files are not open, when said information processing device is turned on.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said file system controller sets the use priority order of said slots in said slot information in advance for the respective slots when said information processing device is turned on.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said file system controller creates slot information in reference to data recorded on a management information region of said information recording media and data in a part of a data region and constructs a part of said file system control information when said information recording medium is attached to any of said plurality of slots.

Claim 5 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

when opening a specific file from said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said slot information included in said file system control information, accesses all of the information recording media attached to the slots in an order based on said priority order included in said file system control information, confirms whether or not a file designated by an application exists, creates open information when a

designated file is initially discovered, registers a flag that indicates whether or not a file having the same name exists with file information when the file having the same name exists in another information recording medium, and creates a file handle which is related to said open information.

Claim 6 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

when reading out data of a specific file from said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determines which slot information is to be utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to read out file data required for said application from a specific information recording medium.

Claim 7 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

when recording file data on said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determines which slot

information is to be utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to record file data produced by said application on a specific information recording medium, and updates the slot information of the file system control information retained by said system memory.

Claim 8 (Original): The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

when closing a specific file from said information recording medium, said file system controller refers to said open information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determines a slot number that is being utilized, and gives the obtained slot number to said access controller in order to record management information in a management information region of said specific information recording medium, and initializes the open information of the file.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A file management method for managing data stored in respective information recording regions within a plurality of information recording media by means of a file system controller and an

access controller of an information processing device,
wherein said method comprising the steps of:

setting a utilization priority order for a plurality
of slots to which said information recording media are
attached,

creating slot information with system information in
reference to data in a management information region
recorded in one said information recording medium and data
in a part of a data region when said information recording
media are attached to any of said plurality of slots, and
producing a part of file system control information through
said file system controller,

upon opening a specific file from an information
recording medium, referring to said slot information
included in said file system control information and said
priority order included in said file system control
information, accessing all of the information recording
media attached to the slots, confirming whether or not a
file that is designated by an application exists, creating
open information when a designated file exists, registering
a flag that indicates whether or not a file having the same
name exists with ~~file~~ said open information, and thereby,
producing the rest of said file system control information,
and thus constructing a unified file system where

individual systems in said plurality of information recording media are unified through said file system controller,

upon reading out data of a specific file from said information recording medium, referring to open information of said file system control information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application, determining which slot information is to be utilized, and giving the obtained slot number to said access controller, and thereby reading out file data required for said application from a specific information recording medium through said file system controller, and

upon recording file data on said information recording medium, referring to said file system control information by using a file handle acquired at the time of file opening from said application determining which slot information is to be utilized, and giving the obtained slot number to said access controller, and thereby recording file data produced by said application in a specific information recording medium, and updating slot information of said file system control information through said file system controller.

Claim 10 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said plurality of information recording media are all managed by the same type of a file system.

Claim 11 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said plurality of information recording media are managed by different types of file systems.

Claim 12 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller uniquely specifies a file to be accessed on the basis of said priority order from among files having the same name that exist in said plurality of information recording media.

Claim 13 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller confirms the existence of files having the same name in said plurality of information recording media, and gives the result to said application program.

Claim 14 (Original): The file management method according to claim 9, wherein

said file system controller confirms the existence of files having the same name in said plurality of information recording media, and gives the result to said application program in response to a request from said application program at an arbitrary time point.